

Honolulu, Hawaii

February 11, 2014

RE: H.B. No. 2183

Honorable Joseph M. Souki  
Speaker, House of Representatives  
Twenty-Seventh State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2014  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Economic Development & Business, to which  
was referred H.B. No. 2183 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE PENAL CODE,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to protect wildlife and  
promote animal welfare, especially among endangered species, by  
prohibiting any person from importing, selling, offering to sell,  
or possessing with intent to sell, any ivory product.

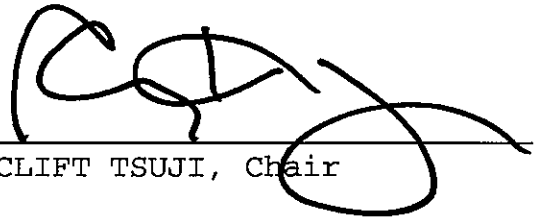
The Humane Society of the United States, Advocates Hawaii,  
and several hundred concerned individuals submitted testimony in  
support of this bill. The Department of Land and Natural  
Resources submitted comments.

The high price of ivory, driven by increased consumer demand,  
has led to the indiscriminate killing of animals, particularly the  
African elephant. It has been estimated that thirty-five thousand  
African elephants were slaughtered in 2012 by poachers and other  
groups intent on selling their ivory for large profits. With the  
increase in black market trade of ivory through internet sales,  
world-wide ivory trafficking is at the highest recorded rate ever.  
Sadly, Hawai'i is the third-highest retailer of elephant ivory in  
the United States. Prohibiting the sale of ivory is a major  
impediment to the ivory trade and will go a long way to saving the  
critically endangered African elephant.



As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Economic Development & Business that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 2183 and recommends that it pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Economic  
Development & Business,



CLIFT TSUJI, Chair



State of Hawaii  
House of Representatives  
The Twenty-seventh Legislature

HSCR 312-14

**Record of Votes of the Committee on Economic Development & Business**

<b>Bill/Resolution No.:</b> HB 2183	<b>Committee Referral:</b> EDB, JVD	<b>Date:</b> 2/4/14		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
<b>The recommendation is to:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended (as is) <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments (HD) <input type="checkbox"/> Hold <input type="checkbox"/> Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)				
EDB Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. TSUJI, Clift (C)	✓			
2. WARD, Gene (VC)	✓			
3. AWANA, Karen				✓
4. BROWER, Tom	/			
5. CACHOLA, Romy M.	✓			
6. ITO, Ken				/
7. CHOY, Isaac W.	/			
8. OHNO, Takashi				/
9. ONISHI, Richard H.K.	/			
10. TOKIOKA, James Kunane	/			
11. WOOLEY, Jessica	✓			
<b>TOTAL (11)</b>	8			3
<b>The recommendation is:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted If joint referral, _____ committee acronym(s) _____ did not support recommendation.				
<b>Vice Chair's or designee's signature:</b>				
<b>Distribution:</b> Original (White) – Committee      Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office      Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO				